Upgradation of telephone exchange in Tehri and Uttarkashi

†1249. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target was laid down to open nine new Telephone Exchanges and upgradation of three exchanges and linking of 16 telephone exchanges with Microwave system and 8 telephone exchanges with satellite telephone in border District of Tehri and Uttarkashi during the year 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the actual position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The works mentioned were planned during 1998-99 but their execution was subject to availability of equipment and feasibility of the schemes. The actual position of the works is as follows:

(i) Out of 9 new telephone exchanges originally planned, four were commissioned in 1998-99 and two in 1999-2000. The remaining three exchanges were not found necessary as telephone connections have been provided in these places from nearest exchanges.

(ii) The three exchanges planned to be upgraded from MILT to C-DoT type have been upgraded. One was upgraded during 1998-99 and the remaining two in 1999-2000.

(iii) Out of sixteen exchanges planned to be connected by UHF or other reliable media, four were connected by UHF during 1998-99 and four during 1999-2000. The remaining eight are proposed during 2000-2001.

(iv) Out of eight exchanges proposed to be connected through Satellite system or other reliable media, one was connected with MCPC VSAT during 1998-99 and five during 1999-2000. The remaining two are proposed during 2000-2001.

Status of optical fibre system at Tehri-Uttarkashi

†1250. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes taken up for laying optical fibre in view of providing better

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.